

Grier, Gina

From: Tapp, Joshua
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Robert Manes
Cc: John Briggs; Brian K. Obermeyer; Lance Hedges; Tom Gross; Weber, Rebecca; Jay, Michael; Grier, Gina; Kemp, Lachala; Lear, Gary; Harvey, Reid; Haeuber, Richard; Wayland, Richard
Subject: RE: Konza Ozone Monitor

Dear Mr. Manes:

Thank you for your email which expressed support for the Konza Prairie CASTNET site. We agree that such sites provide valuable research regarding rural atmospheric chemistry, ecological impacts, and the development of atmospheric models and we appreciate the partnership of the Nature Conservancy of Kansas in this effort. I have also noted your stated concerns regarding the conversion of the ozone portion of the CASTNET monitor to a regulatory monitor. By this email I am forwarding those concerns to Mr. Gary Lear who has the national lead for EPA's CASTNET program.

You can expect a follow up email from Mr. Lear shortly providing you with information regarding the process by which you can formally request the discontinuance of the ozone monitor and if you wish, reaffirm your support for the remainder of the CASTNET site.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me.

Regards,

Josh

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From: Robert Manes [<mailto:RMANES@TNC.ORG>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:07 AM
To: Tapp, Joshua
Cc: John Briggs; Brian K. Obermeyer; Lance Hedges; Tom Gross
Subject: Konza Ozone Monitor

Dear Mr. Tapp:

The purpose of this message is to communicate concerns, on behalf of The Nature Conservancy of Kansas (TNC), regarding the ozone monitor currently sited at Konza Biological Station, a 9,000-acre research property near Manhattan, KS, owned primarily by TNC and operated by Kansas State University. I would first emphasize that TNC continues to fully support the CASTNET monitoring program goals of providing long-term data sets for ozone and other air quality parameters. We also support the gathering of scientific data that can aid in analyzing, abating and facilitating adaption to climate change.

I was concerned, however, to learn recently that the status of the Konza monitoring station had, two years ago, been changed from a research purpose to a regulatory purpose. I cannot recall or find record that TNC was consulted about, or notified of, this change. As a result, neither we nor Kansas State University representatives were able to evaluate or communicate implications of the change.

While neither I nor my staff possess particular expertise in technical aspects of air quality monitoring or enforcement, we are aware that use of data from Konza for regulatory purposes could have negative and unintended impacts on important research, conservation and other activities in the region, including prescribed and experimental burning. We are committed to continuing the long-term research efforts that have been underway at the Konza site for over a decade. We recognize the importance of long-term air quality data sets to EPA and to researchers at the Konza Prairie. However, I do want to have opportunity to discuss whether it is appropriate for the Konza monitor to continue in place for regulatory purposes.

Mr. Tom Gross of KDHE informed me of a scheduled call on the afternoon of April 11th to discuss this issue. I would appreciate the opportunity to participate in that discussion, or in another near-term venue to address this issue. Please feel free to call me at your earliest convenience at the mobile phone number below.

Thank you.

Rob Manes
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